

From: Steve Brooks
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: The Settlement will change nothing

There is little or nothing in the proposed MS antitrust settlement which will prevent MS from using its proven monopolistic power to dominate new marketplaces, specifically in the internet marketplace.

A case in point: One week before the settlement was announced, Microsoft disabled access to the msn.com portal to all non-Microsoft browsers. Although they later reversed this decision due to universal pressure, there is nothing in the proposed settlement to stop MS from this clear use of monopolistic power.

After years of dismissing and sabotaging Java, Microsoft will deploy their C# (C-Sharp) language with the same goals as those of Java. This new language doesn't provide any features or benefits that haven't been available with Java, with the exception that Microsoft will now have the ability to ensure that new Web applications will operate properly only on Windows-based platforms. There is nothing in the proposed settlement to prevent Microsoft from co-opting the software development industry in this manner.

The excitement and promise of the World Wide Web were based in the platform independant nature of web applications. The Browser and the Java programming language are tools which were developed to enable this vision to be achieved. Microsoft has, and will continue to, do all in its power to ensure that they will control the development of the internet in the same way that they have controlled the desktop computing marketplace.

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References:

C# and Java:

<http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1003-200-4603136.html>
<http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1003-201-4591145-0.html>

Microsoft disabling msn.com access:

<http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-7655334.html>
<http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-7660935.html>
<http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-7667367.html>

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